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CLARE LAUNE <clarela@hotmail.com> on 10/04/2001 01:40:36 PM

To: YMP_SR@YMP.gov
cc: CLARE LAUNE <clarela@hotmail.com>

Subject: Fw: Yucca Mountain Site Characterization (M/S #025)

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction



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From: CLARE LAUNE**To:** YMP_SR@YMP.gov**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2001 3:27 PM**Subject:** Yucca Mountain Site Characterization (M/S #025)

TO: Ms. Carol Hanlon, US Department of Energy
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
 PO Box 30307
 North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

Please be advised that I am opposed to the US Department of Energy proposal to ship irradiated fuel rods--high-level radioactive waste--to Yucca Mountain, Nevada (Yucca Mountain Site Characterization M/S #025).

According to the proposal, these shipments from 103 operating commercial nuclear power reactors and from shutdown ones, from nuclear weapons facilities, the nuclear Navy, and research reactors, would travel through 47 states, including moving through the St. Louis Missouri metropolitan area for the next 25 to 30 years.

Some concerns:

-These shipments which would travel through our residential and business communities, including proximity to schools, recreational areas, wetlands and wildlife habitat, waterways and farmlands!

-Our highway system in this region is already severely overloaded and road conditions in some areas are deplorable--potholes, bumps, abrupt lane changes, slippery when wet or snowy, etc. Would anyone want to be sitting in bumper to bumper traffic with a container of irradiated fuel rods close by, or driving along on wet slippery surfaces next to it? (Radio just reported a road in Illinois was reopened after a 14-hour shutdown due to tanker accident involving hazardous substance).

-Railway accidents have occurred which raise many questions--the runaway Conductorless train in Ohio, a 60-car freight train carrying hazardous chemical derailling in Baltimore, and locally, in St. Louis County, a derailment which caused 13 coal cars to dump their contents across the street from Webster Groves homes.

-The tragic events in New York City on September 11: this alone should raise such grave concerns about this proposal that it would be abandoned immediately.

-With armed escorts accompanying the shipments, what would be the effect on communities along the way of being almost daily, for 25 to 30 years, being on emotional/psychological "alert" as these shipments move through? And what will be the financial costs to the taxpayers of providing this security--for 25 to 30 years?

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-Yucca Mountain is reported to be geologically unsuitable and seismically unstable; there have also been concerns expressed about volcanic activity in Yucca Mountain being seriously underestimated. What about geologic, seismic and weather activity all along the routes?

In conclusion, I believe there are too many risks and costs connected with this proposal. We who live in corridor communities and, indeed, the entire country deserve a thorough estimate and evaluation of potential environmental impacts on these shipments. I would also like to add that I believe the federal government should halt the generation of any more reactor wastes UNTIL a solution is found for the wastes already stockpiled.

Please include my comments in the public record. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

G. Clare Laune
16651 Caulks Creek Ridge
Chesterfield MO 63005-6546

cc: Senator Jean Carnahan*
Senator Kit Bond

*Ms. Hanlon, Please note corrected spelling and replace my original memo with this copy.
Thanks and best regards,
Clare Laune

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